(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that one website had recently shown obscene picture of Mahatma Gandhi;

(c) whether Government would take some steps to check misuse of websites and cyber crimes as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), maintains national crime data. During the year 2005, 88 cases of obscene publication/transmission in electronics form were registered in various states under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. However, NCRB does not maintain specific information regarding such misuse of Internet services by the cyber cafes.

(b) to (d) A website by the name 'www.youtube.com' has hosted some objectionable content regarding Mahatma Gandhi. This said website is hosted on servers in United States of America. Information Technology Act, 2000 together with Indian Penal Code provides a legal framework to check misuse of websites and cyber crimes in India.

A Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 15.12.2006 to further strengthen the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Bill *inter-alia* provides for cyber crimes like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.

However, the websites hosted on the servers abroad are subject to the laws of those countries. This poses technological as well as legal issues in taking action against such websites.

Joint venture for titanium based industry

*250. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has entered into MoU with Bothli STARK Company for a joint venture for establishing Titanium based Industry (extracting of Mining of Beach sand) in the east coast of the State (Srikakulam to Vizag);

(b) if so, whether Government have given necessary clearances/ permissions to A.P. Government to enter a MoU to Bothli STARK for Joint Venture; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government earlier rejected permission to Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation for Mining the beach sand because it is detrimental to the existence of Olive Ridley Tortoise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has entered into MoU with M/s. Stork/Bothli Trade AG, Switzerland to form a Joint Venture with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC) to take up mining of heavy minerals and establish value added Titanium Metal producing plant with a capital outlay of Rs. 4,600 crore.

(b) No, Sir. Under the existing Policy on Exploitation of Beach Sand Minerals notified by the Department of Atomic Energy on 6.10.1998, it is permissible for Central/State PSUs to participate in joint venture with foreign equity participation upto 74% for setting up pure value addition projects as well as integrated projects with value addition upto any intermediate stage.

(c) A proposal of the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy to develop the Beemli Beach sand deposits and set up a value addition plant alongwith APMDC and National Mineral Development Corporation, a PSU under the Ministry of Steel could not be implemented as the project was found not viable in the light of restrictions imposed for environmental clearance along the beach where Olive Redley Turtles are seasonally found.

Turnover of BSNL

*251. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is considering to double its turnover to US dollar 20 billion in the next three years;

(b) whether is is also a fact that BSNL is also making efforts for network upgradation and capacity building; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?